

State of Vermont

Department of Health

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*Agency of Human Services*

September 20, 2006

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

REQUEST DATE: September 20, 2006

CLOSING DATE: October 20, 2006

ESTIMATED AWARD AMOUNT: \$100,000

### **Community Planning; Health Care Coverage.**

Under Section 33 of Act 191 (2005-2006) funds have been appropriated to “provide a planning grant of \$100,000 to one community organization or corporation to assist in establishing a local initiative to provide health care coverage or insurance to a community, region or geographic area of the state”. The Vermont Department of Health is soliciting applications for this purpose.

The application template is attached. Copies and other information can also be requested by contacting Denis Barton, Director, Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, Vermont Department of Health, at 802-951-4006 or via [dbarton@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:dbarton@vdh.state.vt.us).

### Background

Participation in a health insurance plan is commonly accepted as an important measure of health care. In 2002, 84 percent of Vermonters said that a high priority for government should be to ensure that people get the health care they need. By most recent estimates 10 percent of Vermont residents are without health insurance, up from 8.1 percent in 1999. The number of individuals receiving public health insurance has increased to 7.5% and costs continue to rise substantially. It is also critical to address the efficiency of the healthcare delivery system so scarce resources can be used in the best manner to sustain, improve or expand health services. Although, the state is now engaged through Catamount Health in a major effort to provide and improve healthcare access and services for all Vermonters, there may be potential for other more localized models to address these concerns.

Communities can play a key role in the availability of structures, facilities and services that support healthy behaviors and provide access to care. Community organizations may not view themselves as having a role in healthcare and health access, but it is important that they be aware of this role and be given the opportunity to address it. This grant program provides that opportunity.

### **Focus**

These funds are intended to subsidize the costs of:

- I. Defining the issues of “coverage” in the target area that need to be addressed:
  - Identifying community need with a comprehensive assessment of health access and coverage needs in the targeted service area including underserved, disparate, and uninsured or underinsured populations.
  - Describing the target population to be served
- II. Conducting a feasibility study for a local initiative to provide health coverage or insurance in the proposed target area. This would include:
  - Developing an analysis to gauge the potential benefits from the establishment of the new entity, including how healthcare services would: be reimbursed for persons within the targeted area: and, be more accessible, efficient or effective than other coverage programs
  - Describing how the initiative would address gaps in coverage for residents in the region
  - Investigating all applicable legal, regulatory and administrative mandates;
  - Investigating potentially relevant regional “models” of care and coverage both in-state and out of state;
  - Engaging relevant stakeholders in the discussion of the feasibility and appropriateness of the initiative;
  - Describing the healthcare services to be covered
  - Describing proposed alignment of the initiative with the Vermont Blueprint for Health, the Catamount Health Plan, statewide health information technology plans, the Global Commitment and current safety net providers and programs;
  - Describing proposed relationship of the coverage initiative with other public and private health coverage plans, as well as regional healthcare providers and networks
  - Creating a budget which details the initial start up and operating costs for the initiative as well as the costs/benefits;
  - Describing a plan for the long term financial support and sustainability of the initiative;
  - Describing a proposed organizational structure and governance for the initiative.

**Eligibility**

Community organizations and corporations are encouraged to apply. Applicants should describe their organization or corporation history, relevant experience and relationship to the geographical area.

**Application:**

The application will be expected to include the following items and should not exceed ten pages (single spaced):

- Description of applicant organization
- Community needs assessment
- Summary description of the proposal (an abstract);
- Goals, objectives, activities and timeline; and
- Line item budget.

*Final approval of applications may be subject to negotiated terms.*

**Submission Deadline: October 20, 2006**

**Applications may be submitted electronically, by FAX, or by mail to:**

**Denis Barton, MA, MBA**  
**Director: Office of Rural Health and Primary Care**  
**Vermont Department of Health**  
**P.O. Box 70**  
**Burlington, VT 05402**  
[dbarton@vdh.state.vt.us](mailto:dbarton@vdh.state.vt.us)  
**802-951-4006**  
**802-651-1634 (fax)**

**Office of Rural Health and Primary Care**  
**Request for Proposals**  
**Vermont Department of Health**

## **APPLICANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Applicant Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

Project Director/Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Tax ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Who should we call if we have questions about this application?**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*NOTE:** This information sheet should be presented as the cover sheet of the application submitted. Be sure to include all information requested.

## Application Template

- I. Description of Applicant Organization
  - a. Please include status (non-profit, hospital based, affiliations, etc.)
  - b. Your community, region, or defined geographical area
  - c. Services or activities conducted by your organization
  - d. Staffing
- II. Community Needs Assessment
  - a. Describe the healthcare needs of your community
  - b. What are some of the access barriers?
  - c. What are the barriers to coverage?
- III. Summary Description of Proposal
  - a. Why you are submitting an application
  - b. How would you use the grant monies if received?
- IV. Goals, Objectives, activities and timeline
  - a. For each goal, describe the objective for that goal, the activities you propose to achieve those objectives and the timeline of the activities
- V. Line Item Budget
  - a. Projected costs to achieve goals detailed above